

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13 and 20-23 have been rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fujishima, U.S. Patent No. 6,740,952, in view of Rumennik, U.S. Patent No. 6,639,277, Van Zant, Ghandhi, Noda, U.S. Patent No. 6,617,652, and Ranjan, U.S. Patent No. 5,801,431. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to call for the resurf region to be "adjacent to and in contact with" the drain region of the device. An example of the amendment to claim 1 can be found at least in Fig. 2 which shows a RESURF region 30 adjacent to and in contact with a drain region 26 of the device.

On the other hand, in the device depicted by Fig. 15 of Fujishima, region 20 is spaced from drain region 6. Thus, Fujishima does not teach the subject matter of claim 1.

In a device according to claim 1, the RESURF region, e.g. region 30, provides protection against reach-through from the substrate to the surface, and also blocks the connection between the surface charge and the epitaxial layer (e.g. layer 12) therebelow, and, therefore, allows for high voltage operation. The combination of the RESURF region and the three layer field plate as set forth in claim 1 allows for a rectangular shape electric field distribution with reduced peak field values as shown by Fig. 2 of the specification.

Fujishima, however, does not teach a single example that includes a field plate arrangement as set forth in claim 1 in combination with a RESURF region. Moreover, Fujishima does not suggest such an arrangement. In addition, no other reference teaches or suggests the exact arrangement of features set forth in claim 1 in combination with Fujishima. Claim 1, therefore, is not rendered obvious over the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

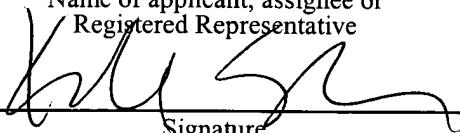
Each of the remaining claims depends from claim 1, and, therefore, includes the limitations thereof as well as additional limitation which in combination with those of claim 1 are not shown or suggested by the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

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August 25, 2008

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